

**REMARKS**

In light of the above amendatory matter and remarks to follow, reconsideration and allowance of the instant application are respectfully solicited.

At paragraph 4 of the Office Action under reply, claims 1-3, 5-13 and 17-19 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Factor (USPN 4,408,838). Applicants submit that the independent claims (claims 2, 5 and 18) as amended are patentable over Factor. Claim 1 is canceled. Applicants therefore respectfully traverse the rejection.

The present invention is directed towards a luminous source apparatus, an image projecting apparatus and an image converting apparatus, which performs image projection by projecting light onto a recording medium in accordance with the light-quantity projected onto the recording medium. In these apparatuses the projected light is regulated so that the light-quantity emitted from a light source remains constant. This allows images, which are projected from the recording medium, to be converted into digital images and recorded in digital recording means without any fluctuations in the light-intensity of the projected image.

For example, claim 2 recites in part,

“means for directly regulating the light-quantity emitted from the luminous body...so as to make the light-quantity emitted by the luminous body and therefore the light-quality projected onto the recording medium constant; and

means for converting an image projected from the recording medium in accordance with the light-quantity projected onto the recording medium into a digital image, and for recording the digital image in digital recording means.”

Claims 5 and 18 contain similar limitations.

Factor does not disclose means for converting an image projected from the recording medium in accordance with the light-quantity projected onto the recording medium into a digital image, and for recording the digital image in digital recording means.

Factor is merely directed towards a sequential picture apparatus that regulates the color temperature of incoming light. Factor does not teach or suggest converting an image projected from the recording medium in accordance with the light-quantity projected onto the recording medium into a digital image into a digital image and recording this converted digital image in digital recording means. Therefore, Applicants submit that the independent claims (claims 2, 5 and 18) are patentable over Factor.

Claim 3 depends from independent claim 2. Because independent claim 2 is believed to be patentable over Factor, claim 3 is believed to be patentable over Factor on the basis of its dependency on independent claim 2.

Claims 6-13 and 17 depend from independent claim 5. Because independent claim 5 is believed to be patentable over Factor, claims 6-13 and 17 are believed to be patentable over Factor on the basis of their dependency on independent claim 5.

Claim 19 depends from independent claim 18. Because independent claim 18 is believed to be patentable over Factor, claim 19 is believed to be patentable over Factor on the basis of its dependency on independent claim 18.

Therefore, it is respectfully requested that the above 102 rejection of claims 2-3, 5-13 and 17-19 be withdrawn.

At paragraph 5 of the Office Action under reply, claims 1 and 2 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Firmani (USPN 4,792,829). Applicants submit that

independent claim 2, as amended, is patentable over Firmani. Applicants therefore respectfully traverse the rejection.

As stated above, the present invention is directed towards an image projecting apparatus, which performs image projection by projecting light onto a recording medium in accordance with a light-quantity projected onto the recording medium into a digital image. In these apparatuses the projected light is regulated so that the light-quantity emitted from a light source remains constant. This allows images, which are projected from the recording medium, to be converted into digital images and recorded in digital recording means without any fluctuations in the light-intensity of the projected image.

Firmani is merely directed towards an improved light-exposure control unit for a photographic printer. Firmani does not disclose means for converting an image projected from the recording medium in accordance with the light-quantity projected onto the recording medium into a digital image, and for recording the digital image in digital recording means. Therefore, Applicants submit that claim 1 is patentable over Firmani.

Therefore, it is respectfully requested that the above 102 rejection of claim 2 be withdrawn.

At paragraph 7 of the Office Action under reply, claims 4 and 14-16 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable by Factor in view of Miyashita (USPN 5,136,397).

Claims 4 and 14-16 are dependent from one of the independent claims 2 and 5 and, due to such dependency, are also distinguishable from Factor. Miyashita as applied by the Examiner does not appear to overcome the above-described deficiencies of Factor. Accordingly, it is believed that claims 4 and 14-16 are distinguishable from the proposed combination of Factor and Miyashita.

Therefore, it is respectfully requested that the above 103 rejection of claims 4 and 14-16 be withdrawn.

**CONCLUSION**

Applicants respectfully submit that all of the claims (claims 2-19) now pending in the application are in condition for allowance, which action is earnestly solicited.

It is submitted that these claims, as originally presented, are patentably distinct over the prior art cited by the Examiner, and that these claims were in full compliance with the requirements of 35 U.S.C. §112. Changes to these claims, as presented herein, are not made for the purpose of patentability within the meaning of 35 U.S.C. §§ 101, 102, 103 or 112. Rather, these changes are made simply for clarification and to round out the scope of protection to which Applicants are entitled.

Statements appearing above with respect to the disclosures in the cited references represent the present opinions of the applicants' undersigned attorney, and, in the event that the Examiner disagrees with any such opinion, it is respectfully requested that the Examiner specifically indicate those portions of the reference providing the basis for a contrary view.

If any issues remain, or if the Examiner has any further suggestions, he/she is invited to call the undersigned at the telephone number provided below.

PATENT  
450100-4796.2

The Examiner is hereby authorized to charge any insufficient fees or credit any overpayment associated with the above-identified application to Deposit Account No.50-0320.

The Examiner's consideration of this matter is gratefully acknowledged.

Respectfully submitted,

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